GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:125
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004
HYDRO-CARBON IN ASSAM
Sen Smt. Minati

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether ONGC has found out oil and Hydro-Carbon in three areas of Assam;

(b) if so, whether ONGC has handed over those three Oil Wells to an organisation of Canada, which implies privatisation of those oil wells;

(c) whether in Parbatpur and Karun Pura of Bokaro a huge quantity of coal based Methane Gas is available in 33 wells;

(d) whether ONGC have shifted the responsibility of digging and production in those 33 wells of Methane Gas to a Private Organisation; and

(e) the detailed reasons for outsourcing the Oil and Methane Gas digging by ONGC?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 125 BY SHRIMATI MINATI SEN TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2004 REGARDING HYDRO-CARBON IN ASSAM

(a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has established hydrocarbons in all three sectors, viz., Upper Assam, Dhansiri Valley and Cachar in the State of Assam.

(b) Government of India and the consortium comprising M/s Assam Company Ltd. & M/s Joshi Technology Limited signed a Production Sharing Contract(PSC) on 23rd February, 2001 for Amguri field in Assam under the second round of offers for the development of small sized discovered fields. Consequent upon approval of the proposal by the Government in 2004 for change of operator and assignment of Participating Interest in the Amguri field, the revised Participating Interest in the field is M/s Canoro Resources Limited (60%) along with Operatorship, and M/s Assam Company Limited (40%). The field was handed over to M/s Canoro Resources Limited by ONGC on the 29th October, 2004 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the PSC.

(c) ONGC is pursuing its exploration and assessment activities for Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in Parbatpur Block of Jharia coal field, Bokaro coal field and North Karanpura coal field. In Parbatpur block, 4 Research & Development (R&D) wells have been drilled and leads have been obtained wherein sustained production of about 6,000 cubic metres per day has been established on testing in an R&D well. However, the commercial viability of CBM gas from Parbatpur remains to be established. In Karanpura and Bokaro blocks, drilling of bore holes for preliminary assessment of the CBM potential is in progress.

(d) & (e) Currently, ONGC is carrying out CBM exploration on its own and availing of the necessary consultancy services. CBM exploration in the country is at an initial stage and requires induction of expertise and state-of-the-art technology from countries where CBM exploration and production is at a more advanced stage. ONGC has plans to invite global tenders from high technology service providers in the area of drilling.